Corporate Parenting Panel

Date: Monday 25 March 2024
Time: 10.00 am

Membership

Councillor Sue Markham (Chair)
Councillor Marian Humphreys
Councillor Penny-Anne O'Donnell
Councillor Brett Beetham
Councillor Caroline Phillips
Councillor Jerry Roodhouse
Valerie Corcoran
Jackie Channell

Items on the agenda: -

The next meeting will be held on Monday, 1st July 2024 at 10.00 am

Meetings are not webcast and are not open to the public.

Monica Fogarty
Chief Executive
Warwickshire County Council
Shire Hall, Warwick

Disclaimers

Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Members are required to register their disclosable pecuniary interests within 28 days of their election of appointment to the Council. Any changes to matters registered or new matters that require to be registered must be notified to the Monitoring Officer as soon as practicable after they arise.

A member attending a meeting where a matter arises in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest must (unless they have a dispensation):

- Declare the interest if they have not already registered it
- Not participate in any discussion or vote
- Leave the meeting room until the matter has been dealt with
- Give written notice of any unregistered interest to the Monitoring Officer within 28 days of the meeting.

Non-pecuniary interests relevant to the agenda should be declared at the commencement of the meeting.

Meetings are not webcast and are not open to the public. The public reports referred to are available on the Warwickshire Web for information
https://democracy.warwickshire.gov.uk/uuCoverPage.aspx?bcr=1

Corporate Parenting Panel

Monday 15 January 2024

Minutes

Attendance

Committee Members
Councillor Sue Markham (Chair)
Councillor Marian Humphreys
Councillor Penny-Anne O'Donnell
Councillor Caroline Phillips
Councillor Brett Beetham

Officers
Helen Barnsley, Senior Democratic Services Officer
Nigel Minns, Executive Director for Children and Young People
Sharon Shaw, Service Manager - Corporate Parenting Service
Deena Moorey, Virtual School Head
Leah Adams, Head of Early Years and School Effectiveness
Davinder Shergill, Development Officer
Umar Teerab, Family Support Worker
Liss Phillips, Family Support Worker
Johnny Kyriacou, Director of Education

1. **General**

   (1) Apologies

   Apologies were received from Councillor Jerry Roodhouse.

   Apologies were also received from John Coleman, Director of Children & Families Service and Debs McGarvey, Team Manager - Voice, Influence & Change.

   (2) Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

   None.

   (3) Minutes of the previous meeting

   The minutes from the meeting held on the 13th November 2023 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

   There were no matters arising.

2. Voice, Influence & Change Team - Updates

Liss Phillips, Family Support Worker, introduced the report and provided feedback from the latest Care Leavers Forum. A range of speaker were invited to attend the forum on a variety of topics, including accommodation. Members of the forum were given the chance to provide feedback on the range of accommodation.

Other highlights from the forum meetings included –

- Representatives from Compass attended to talk to the forum about the services they provide. Young people were asked for the views on what they thought should be included in the new mental health support boxes that are being developed.

- Discussions were held in relation to the possible redesign of the Local Offer for care leavers.

- It was confirmed that officers are looking at neighbouring authorities in relation to care leavers access to their records.

- A summary of events was presented to the panel. These included a Vietnamese meal to celebrate families, a Halloween party and an event to celebrate the achievements of care leavers that included getting places at universities.

- Umar Teerab, Family Support Worker, confirmed that the football team is still going strong. They have competed in two recent tournaments, coming second in one, and first in another. More matches are being planned, including one against council officers.

- Work is ongoing to ensure that young people are involved in the apprenticeship programme and that their voices are embedded in the training. Communication between young people and their social workers was also highlighted as a key focus of the programme. Councillor Marian Humphreys requested more information in relation to the numbers of care leavers taking up apprenticeships and the path taken through programme.

- The panel learnt that Relationship and Sex Education training is delivered to newly arrived young asylum-seeking children to give them an opportunity to learn about the culture and range of relationships. It is an important message to get across, especially to young girls. Umar Teerab confirmed that he has been working with those involved, and it has been positively received.

- The Grandmentors scheme has recently received a grant of £107k which will allow the scheme to continue for another two years. The scheme has a positive impact on the young people who take part – with many choosing to stay in touch with their Grandmentor after they leave care.

- The end of 2023 Christmas party saw 100 young people attend – the biggest and best Christmas party so far. A gaming company from Leamington Spa donated £5k to be used for prizes which was very much appreciate and received!

- Norma's traditional Christmas hampers were delivered to 250 young people. The panel noted that more council support is needed at the moment due to the cost-of-living crisis but both Morrisons and Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service gave donations.

The Chair thanked all involved for a very positive report, adding that the panel really appreciate the updates, giving the panel a chance to see all the hard work done by those involved.

3. Performance Data

Sharon Shaw, Head of Corporate Parenting presented the report to the panel with the following highlights –

- There was an increase in the number of Children in Care during November and December 2023, to 804. It was noted that this figure has now reduced to 794 and that there had been a reduction in the number of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC). 15.4% of Children in Care are UASC.

- The panel noted that there are still challenges in finding placements for children and that in December 2023, four children had to be placed out of county.

- The panel was pleased to note that there have already been more adoptions in 2024 than in the whole of 2023.

- Work continues to improve placement stability which is still a challenge. It was noted that the impact of emergency placements contributes to the data.

- It was noted that health assessments continue to be delayed if a child/ren is/are placed out of county. This was contributed to the fact that authorities are likely to prioritise children from their area before those who come from other areas. The panel was asked to note that the data in relation to out of county placements does included children who may be living with family members.

It was confirmed that officers will be asked to come to a future meeting to present information in relation to missing episodes.

4. Update on Warwickshire County Council's Children's homes

Sharon Shaw, Head of Corporate Parenting presented an update to the panel in relation to Warwickshire Children's Homes.

Cherry Tree House has been up and running since March 2023. It can house up to four young people but as yet, has not been fully occupied. It was noted that Cherry Tree House was used to

bring back one young person who had been housed out of the county. The young person is now back with family members but built excellent relationships with the neighbours to Cherry Tree House.

Officers continue to review the placements out of county and look at who could benefit from a placement in Cherry Tree House. The primary aim was confirmed as rehabilitation with the family (or back to a foster placement); it is a step-down home.

It was noted that recruiting staff in the south of the county has been challenging. There is a lot of competition from private providers who often offer higher salaries.

It was confirmed that Acorn Lodge and Oak Tree House are homes for children with emotional and behavioural needs. Building work on both homes is now complete, and both are furnished. OFSTED registration is still outstanding, but it is expected to be completed soon. There is still a need for a registered manager for both homes, and it was confirmed that recruitment has been difficult. It was also confirmed that Beechwood House in the north of the county, a one bedroom house, is also ready to go once the OFSTED paperwork is completed.

In relation to the Silver Birch home in Nuneaton, it was confirmed that building work has now started. There have been some delays, including the need for a survey in relation to newts that may have been in the pond in the garden. There is already a registered manager in place at Silver Birch and most of the staff have been recruited.

In relation to supporting children with mental health issues and autism, Nigel Minns, Executive Director for Children and Young People stated that he had recently visited the Hope Service which provides an excellent service for children with additional needs and from whom Warwickshire could learn a lot from.

To finish, it was acknowledged that there are many challenges that face the council. It was noted that there are more children's homes opening and many are privately run and therefore can offer higher salaries; it is a very competitive market. It is vital that registered managers are right for each placement.

Members of the panel received an extended invitation to visit any of the Warwickshire Children's Homes.

The Chair thanked all the officers involved for the extremely positive report.

5. Development of the Work Programme and Items on the Forward Plan

The updated work programme was agreed by the Panel.

It was agreed that George Shipman, Head of Safeguarding Communities, would be contacted in relation to providing an update on County Lines.

It was agreed that Sharon Shaw, Head of Corporate Parenting, would look at the possibility of adding information relating to the number of siblings in care to the performance information presented at each panel meeting.

6. Any Other Business

None

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 25th March 2024 at 10am.

The meeting will be held in Shire Hall, Warwick.

The meeting rose at 11:06

....
Chair

Corporate Parenting Panel

15.01.24

This page is intentionally left blank

Corporate Parenting Panel

25th March 2024

CiCC and CLF & Voice, Influence and Change Team Update

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 That the Panel note the work of the Children in Care Council (CiCC), Care Leavers Forum (CLF) and the Voice, Influence and Change Team (Participation).

1.2 That the Panel acknowledge the work that continues to take place with young people.

2. Executive Summary

2.1 This is a standing item on the Corporate Parenting Panel agenda which updates members on the work of the CiCC and CLF.

3. Financial Implications

3.1 There are no significant financial implications to consider at this stage.

4. Environmental Implications

4.1 There are no significant environmental implications to consider at this stage.

5. Supporting Information

This update covers the period from 1st January – 14th March 2024

5.1 **Children in Care Council Updates**

16th January – Guest speakers Abbey Baker and Hayley McKenna came to talk to the children in care council about the deep dive currently taking place into recording, and the new Life Long Links programme that is being funding from the Department for Education. Views were sought on what young people thought about recording and how they would want information about them to be written. Some children were interested in the Life Long Links and have started the process to try and reconnect with a lost relationship.

13th February – Cancelled due to water issues at Shire Hall

13th March -   Guest speaker, Sarah Hack, from the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC). Sarah came to talk to children about their views on the police and their involvement with them. Sarah also raised awareness about police searches and people's rights with this. Also discussed about the differences between a stop and account, stop and search and a Section 60.

Discussion was also had with the children about their health, and they filled out a questionnaire related to this. This was one of the priorities that the children in care council had raised to discuss and feedback on. This will form part of a report for SLT in April.

5.2   Care Leavers Forum Updates

16th January –   Welcome back session after the Christmas holidays. The group discussed priorities to cover in the coming year. Feedback was also sought on the recent events and activities and what they would like in the future.

13th February -   Cancelled due to water issues at Shire Hall.

13th March -   Guest speakers, Brit and Dave, from the Policy Scrutiny Panel. Brit and Dave came to hold a short session on how the police work with young people and how they can get involved in making these experiences better.

Guest speaker, Laura Forrest, came to talk to the forum about Life Long Links programme.

Forum members also had a discussion around health and people filled in a questionnaire as part of this.

5.3   Hey Foster Carer – 28th February

On 28th February, the launch of Hey Foster Carer took place at Old Shire Hall in Warwick. Hey Foster Carer is a booklet that has been coproduced with children and young people to help existing and prospective foster carers understand the wishes and feelings or our Warwickshire children looked after. Views and opinions of children were sought from the children in care council and wider for the content of the booklet.

As part of the launch evening, two representatives from the Children in Care Council and one Care Experienced Apprentice delivered speeches to the audience. The content of their speeches addressed:

-What makes a good foster carer?
-Why it is important to listen to children?
-How can foster carers listen to children?
-Why should someone become a foster carer?

The link to the Hey Foster Carer booklet is below:
Hey Foster Carer (2).pdf

5.4 **UASC Football**

Football continues to run every Sunday at the Sidney Stringer Academy in Coventry. Attendance is now up to around 35 young people!

In partnership with Think Active, football kits were provided for all the young people who attend. They loved receiving their new clothing and are all kitted up to play each week.

After applying for some funding, Think Active are also providing the resources for two of the young people to go on their Football Coaching course so they will be qualified football coaches. The two people chosen have shown a commitment to the weekly football session and tournaments, and who have been actively helping to run the sessions. This will enable the football to continue each week and smaller coaching groups to happen within the training.

5.5 **Leaving Care and Asylum Team Activities**

Monthly Wellbeing Walks

The Leaving Care and Asylum team and now holding monthly Wellbeing walks for their carers. These walks have taken place:

10th January – Coombe Abbey
16th February – Draycote Water

The walks aims are to get young people out to socialise with one another, participate in exercise and improve mental health.

In partnership with Evelyn's Gifts, the young people that take part on these walks are being provided with a bag, water bottle and suncream to encourage them to take part and keep themselves healthy.

Page 11

Winter Socials

Throughout the winter months, Chill n Grill has become the Winter Socials. These take place monthly for Care Leavers at Myton Park. They include the opportunity for a hot meal, socialising with other young people and talking to PAs and managers.

5.6   **Youth Council Elections – 12th March**

Throughout the month of February, voting was open online for all young people across Warwickshire to vote in their members of the new Warwickshire Youth Council. 1314 votes were received for the 66 nominations of young people.
On 12th March at Shire Hall, around 115 children, young people and their parent carers attended the results evening to see who had been elected onto the new Warwickshire Youth Council. 30 young people have been voted in with their monthly meetings starting in April 2024.

For those children and young people that were not voted onto the council, they have been invited to become members of the 'Friends of the Youth Council' forum.

NEW YC Members .mov

YC video - Outgoing .mov

5.7   **Putting Participation on the Map Event – 16th February**

Warwickshire have had a representative sit on the West Midlands ADCS Network group which planned a 'Putting the Participation on the Map' Event held in Walsall. The aim of the event was to bring care experienced young

people together to ask them how they would like our professionals to be trained and to see what they think it is important for professionals to know.

The event was attended by all West Midland Local Authorities. One Warwickshire staff member from the Voice, Influence and Change team attended with a Care Experienced Apprentice. Together, they also led on one aspect of the day which talked about Ice breaker games and the importance that these have in training.

5.8   **'Wrong' Size Fits All Film Launch – 5th March**

Children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) showcased their talents on Tuesday 5th March at a film premier that took place in Coventry. The film is called 'Wrong Size Fits All' and it highlights the experiences children and young people with SEND face within educational settings and aims to promote an understanding of their needs.

The film was filmed and produced with member of IMPACT, Warwickshire's forum for children and young people with SEND.

In attendance at the premier evening were educational officers, film students, senior leaders and families of the participants. There was a time for a question-and-answer session after the viewing of the film.

A representative from IMPACT said:

"It is important for IMPACT to share their experiences because there are too many young people who don't have a voice or the privilege of being heard. We hope the film inspires young people to open up and that it has a positive impact on the way that teachers work with students."
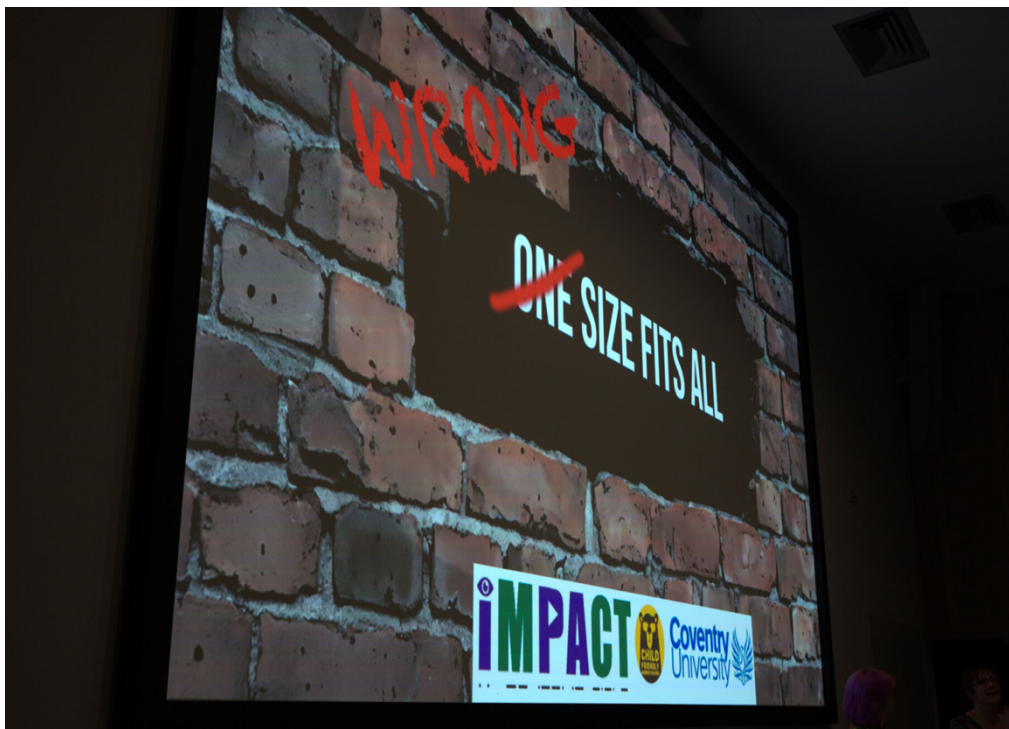
www.warwickshire.gov.uk/wrongsize.

6. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

6.1 An update report to be presented to the next Corporate Parenting Panel.

Appendices

None.

Background Papers

None.

	Name	Contact Information
Report Author	Deborah McGarvey	deborahmcgarvey@warwickshire.gov.uk 077990 400006
Assistant Director	John Coleman	johncoleman@warwickshire.gov.uk
Executive Director for Children and Young People	Nigel Minns	nigelminns@warwickshire.gov.uk
Portfolio Holder for Children & Families	Sue Markham	suemarkham@warwickshire.gov.uk

The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Local Member(s): n/a
Other members: n/a

Corporate Parenting Panel

(as at 29 February 2024)

798 Children in Care

An increase of **1 Children in Care** since 31 January 2024

No. Children in Care - Monthly trend

	Sep 23	Oct 23	Nov 23	Dec 23	Jan 24	Feb 24
ALL CiC (Including Asylum Seekers)	801	- 10	+ 6	+ 7	- 7	+ 1 → 798
ALL CiC (Excluding Asylum Seekers)	684	-12	+ 5	+ 3	+ 5	+ 2 → 687

At 29 February 2024, Warwickshire's Children in Care population increased by 1 to 798, whilst the no. of CiC excluding asylum seekers increased by 2 to 687.

630 CiC target for 2023/24 — 630

Children in Care Placement Type

WCC Foster Carer (inc Family and Friends carers)
310 children (38.8%); which is an increase of 1 child on the previous month end.

Placed for Adoption
23 children (2.9%) of all CIC at 29/02/2024; an increase of 4 children since 31/01/2024.

Agency Foster Carer
197 CIC (24.7%); an increase of 12 children since 31/01/2024

Residential Home or Supported Accommodation
171 children (21.4%); a decrease of 6 children since 31/01/2024

Legal Status of Children in Care as at 29 February 2024

52.1% (416) of CiC are on a **Full Care Order**; this is a decrease of 3 children since 31/01/2024.

10.0% (80) of CiC are on an **Interim Care Order**; this is a increase of 5 children since the previous month end.

5.1% (41) of CiC are on a **Placement Order**; this is an increase of two children since 31/01/2024.

32.5% (259) of CiC are subject to **S20 Accommodation**; this is a decrease of two children since the end of January 2024.

Leaving Care Activity Status

As at 29 February 2024, of those Relevant and Former Relevant Care Leavers (aged 16 - 21) ...

87.6% had a contact within the last 8 weeks

82.5% were in suitable accommodation

48.4% were in EET (Employment, Education & Training)

CiC out of county
as at 31st December 2023

18.3%

(147) of CiC were placed outside the LA boundary and more than 20 miles from where they used to live

NB. Please note that this is a quarterly measure

CiC 'Missing' or 'Away from placement without authorisation'

34 children in care were missing (87 missing episodes)

During February 2024 there were **87 episodes** of a child missing or away from their placement without authorisation. This related to **34 individual children** with **14 children** having multiple missing episodes during the month.

Gender

62.8% (501) Male

37.2% (297) Female

0 'Indeterminate'

Ethnicity

1/4 (28.4%) of Children in Care (Including Asylum Seekers) are **Minority Ethnic (227)**;

71.6% (571) are of White ethnicity

Allocated Team

13.9% (111) of Children in Care are Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers

5.4% (43) are allocated to the Children with Disability teams

26.8% (214) are allocated to the CiC 14-18 Years Team

86.7%

86.7% of Children in Care at 29 February 2024 have had a 'completed' health assessment in the last 12 months

% of CiC accommodated during the month (**who remained accommodated**) and who had their **IHA within 20 working days** (Monthly trend)

Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
15.8%	23.8%	38.9%	25.0%	17.2%	TBC
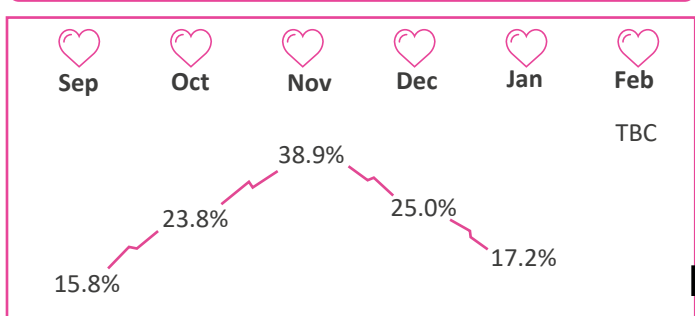
Age breakdown of the 798 children

3.5% (28) 0 years old	13.2% (105) aged 1 - 4	16.8% (134 aged 5 - 9	37.3% (298 aged 10 - 15	29.2% (233) aged 16 - 17

Short Term / Long Term Placement Stability of Children in Care as at **29 February 2024**

Warwickshire — National Average (2023)

Short Term: 15% / 10%

Long Term: 55.5% / 69%

Source: Data extracted from Mosaic following migration. Icon(s) made by Freepik at www.flaticon.com.

This page is intentionally left blank

'Working in partnership, celebrating success, aiming for excellence'

Agenda Item 4

Warwickshire Virtual School

Spring 2024 Report
Part 1, 2023- 24
Autumn 23 updates and 2023-24 Virtual School service delivery
2022-23 final CiC outcomes

Contents

* Warwickshire uses the term Children in Care in preference to the DfE term Looked-After Children, so the acronym CiC will be used throughout this report

'Working in partnership, celebrating success, aiming for excellence'

1.1 Preface
Warwickshire Virtual School Head's report is written in three parts, based on one part per school term, written retrospectively:

Part 1 – Spring term

Part 2 – Summer term

Part 3 – Autumn term

The report contains information on the work of the Virtual School, predominantly focussing on how it promotes the education of CiC. Unvalidated academic outcomes for CiC are reported in Part 3; validated outcomes in Part 1.

1.2 Current Context
The Virtual School prides itself on its solution focussed approach, working with service providers and stakeholders to promote the education of CiC, previously in care and children with a social worker on an ever six model (CWSW) as part of the extended duties.

The Virtual School continues to:
- Celebrate the educational achievements of all CiC through an annual awards ceremony.
- Ensure all termly PEPs are quality assured, with a focus on supporting designated teachers to continually improve quality.
- Support the Post 16 workforce with training and providing additional and bespoke support to students in care and care leavers.
- Ensure all Post 16 CiC have termly PEP reviews. Focus remains on those who are NEET to ensure they are supported to understand the best ways they can re-engage.
- Work with Challenging Education on the Raising Attainment of Disadvantaged Youngsters (RADY) programme, with the strategic focus on children with a social worker.
- Provide high quality, bespoke, training for Warwickshire settings, focusing on understanding attachment and early trauma to best support CiC and CWSW.
- Offer the National Tutoring Programme to CiC in Years 1-11 in partnership with Equal Education.
- Grow the university aspirations programme with partners from Think Higher.
- Develop the West Midlands regional offer of enrichment opportunities, key in promoting good SEMH (Social Emotional Mental Health), a prerequisite to academic success. Performing Perfectly will continue to lead on arts and Think Active on sports.
- Monitor settings to support designated teachers and improve their skills and capacity to advocate for CiC and previously in care.
- Offer an exceptionally high level of challenge and support for settings who suspend, reduce the education offer or fail to promote higher outcomes for CiC. The team working directly with schools and settings are all qualified teachers and school leaders who have high expectations and demand positive and inclusive responses.
- Focus on entry to care for all CiC. Prompt conversations with key professionals ensure PEPs, PP+ (Pupil Premium Plus) and appropriate educational interventions are in place.
- Challenge and support WCC services regarding how CiC and CWSW are supported and prioritised in our systems.

'Working in partnership, celebrating success, aiming for excellence'

- Work with Education Services teams and leadership to facilitate identifying SEND provision more quickly.
- Work with the Warwickshire Attendance Service to ensure there is an escalation process for CiC and CWSW to identify intervention where attendance is causing concern.
- Ensure transition planning remains a key aspect of Virtual School work.

Understanding challenges

The Virtual School works with partners to reduce risk factors, but the biggest challenges are:

- Identifying suitable education placements in a timely manner for CiC with EHCPs, within and outside of Warwickshire, due to high demand for specialist education.
- Increasing number of UASC (Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children) with oversubscribed college courses and limited in-year provision for Year 11 (final year of school) age students.
- Attendance, particularly Key Stage 4.
- Use of suspension and permanent exclusion as a sanction, which continues to increase.
- Mobility of the cohort, which impacts school stability, education continuity and accessibility.

Focus for 2023-24

In addition, there are some specific projects and workstreams planned for 2023-24:

- Developing the CWSW service now that two dedicated Education Advisers have been recruited.
- Growing the arts and sports opportunities now an additional Enrichment Coordinator has been recruited.
- Implementing the kinship revision to CWSW guidance.
- VSH leading, representing, and managing the West Midlands VSH Network and the West Midlands Children in Care Foundation Charity as Chair for the year.
- Engaging with and contributing to local and national research. This includes contributing to the CWSW review, the Post 16 PP+ review and attending the first NAVSH Research Symposium.
- Working with HNC and HND students at Hinckley College to develop materials for training and awareness raising for designated teachers and safeguarding leads.
- Implementing an Outreach Service in the Nuneaton and Bedworth area.
- Including specific education measures in Social Care assessments.
- Promoting attendance of CWSW in the Rugby area.
- Trialling school holiday tuition access for CiC.
- Working with a new partner to extend attachment and trauma training for all Warwickshire settings. This will promote awareness of the CWSW and kinship care cohort, as well as challenging thinking around the increasing use of suspension as a sanction.

'Working in partnership, celebrating success, aiming for excellence'

ATTAINMENT OF CHILDREN IN CARE

Outcomes have now been validated, with some minor changes since the Autumn report.

2.1 Early Years Foundation Stage   *Table A1*
2022-23 outcome: 21.7%
5 out of 23 achieved a Good Level of Development (GLD)

2.2 Year One Phonics   *Table A2*
2022-23 outcome: 44.4%
8 out of 18 achieved the expected standard in the phonics test.

This is particularly positive: at the end of 21-22, the end of the EYFS, only 22% were working at the expected standard, so 78% started Year 1 working below the expected standard.

2.2 Key Stage One   *Table A3*
2022-23 outcome: 26.1%
6 out of 23 achieved the expected standard in reading, writing and maths.

2.3 Key Stage Two   *Table A4*
2022-23 outcome: 46.4%
13 out of 28 achieved the expected standard in reading, writing and maths.

This is particularly pleasing as it is 10% higher than the national cohort.

2.4 Key Stage Four   *Table A5,6,7*
2022-23 outcomes: 11% achieved a standard pass in the basics.

17% achieved a standard pass in English (grade 4 and above)
6.5% achieved a strong pass in English (grade 5 and above)

22% achieved a standard pass in maths (grade 4 and above)
4.3% achieved a strong pass in maths (grade 5 and above)

2.5 Post 16   *Table A8*
There were 216 CiC in the Post 16 cohort at the end of the Autumn term. A majority of the cohort, 63%, had been in care for less than two years; 35% had been in care for under 12 months; 22% entered care during the autumn term; 20% were NEET on entry to care.

Most of the cohort, 78%, were in Education, Employment or Training (EET), with 22% NEET. Over one third of the NEETs had college places secured for September 2023, but either did not start or decided not to stay on the course.

To note: Of the 216, 85% sustained their EET status across the year, 5% **higher** than the national cohort.
The Virtual School continues to focus on supporting colleges to improve retention rates for CiC and both North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College and the Warwickshire College Group, reported positive first terms.
Unless starting college courses in the first half of the Autumn term, it is more difficult to remain in a positive destination. Most courses run to an academic year with just one entry

'Working in partnership, celebrating success, aiming for excellence'

point. Provisions such as the Prince's Trust are great for developing employability skills and supporting re-engagement, but are short term only, leaving large parts of the academic year with limited options. Working with Prospects and other careers advisers is crucial in such instances. The Virtual School promotes and prompts early identification and referral to the Prospects service.

3.1 Cohort overview
Table B1,2

Cohorts vary from month to month, but the Virtual School work with all CiC equitably, regardless of their length of time in care. Some CiC require more Virtual School resource, the impact of which is not necessarily captured via nationally reported measures.

Prompt and comprehensive actions are taken by the Virtual School when a child enters care. Support for transitions out of care are determined according to individual needs.

Cohort info for 2022-23:
Preschool - 98 CiC in total; 17 new to care; 28 left care.
Statutory school age - 603 CiC in total; 142 new to care; 89 left care.
Post 16 - 295 CiC in total; 63 new to care; 140 left care.

3.2 SEND
Table B3,4,5,6

Many children enter care with unmet and unidentified Special Educational Needs. The Virtual School works with partners to ensure prompt identification of needs and ensure appropriate support is in place. The impact of SEMH needs is particularly significant for CiC: achievement at the end of one Key Stage does not correspond with achievement at the end of the next where SEMH needs are high or have increased. The Virtual School supports educational settings to determine and address SEMH needs, whilst ensuring strong focus on academic progress. At times, CiC must move to specialist settings as their level of SEMH needs increase. Where SEMH needs are the most significant area of need, academic achievement is often consequently very low. Levels of attendance and the use of suspensions also significantly impact on CiC with such needs.

Levels of CiC with identified SEND are significantly higher than the levels for all children; this is in turn reflected in their levels of academic achievement.
Statutory school age CiC with recorded SEND 2022-23 increased by 3.8% to 24.1%, 11% higher than for the whole of Warwickshire.
Statutory school age CiC with EHCPs 2022-23 increased by 2% to 30.3%, 26% higher than the rate for all children in Warwickshire.

All EHCP provision is the responsibility of the SEND services where the young person resides. However, the Virtual School works closely with all professionals to ensure termly PEPs track and support EHCP targets.

3.3 Enrichment
Table C1,2

Raising Aspirations:
- UniGo for a new Year 7 cohort started in October with a scavenger hunt around the Warwick University campus and a masterclass in TV and Film studies where they had to write scripts, have a go at filming, recording and acting.

5

'Working in partnership, celebrating success, aiming for excellence'

- UniGo Year 9s had fun debating in a law session and asked some great questions in a philosophy session discussing whether everyone has a moral duty to vote.

Arts:

- Interactive DJ workshop to learn new skills and gain insight into what being a DJ involves.
- Oliver Twist at The Albany where CiC took part in a drama workshop before watching the show and then went behind the scenes to explore the set and meet the cast afterwards.

3.4 Training

Comprehensive training is delivered for designated teachers, whole settings and for those working directly with CiC.

In the autumn term:

- Annual designated teacher training. Updates and developments were shared and the CPD programme continued with a focus on wider staff approaches to children who have experienced trauma.
- Termly network meeting. Designated teachers come along to share good practice and learn from each other.
- New to role sessions are delivered monthly and supported by in school support from Education Advisers.
- Trauma Informed Attachment Aware Schools network meeting to focus on updates and a problem-solving approach to challenges identified in settings.
- Five webinars were hosted by AC Education, aimed at all staff working with CiC, previously in care, or other children with a social worker. These aim to inform knowledge and understanding, whilst challenging policy and practice within settings.
- Nuneaton schools had the opportunity to attend a whole day interactive event to develop their understanding of children who have social workers and the barriers they may encounter. This program was for delivery in the autumn and spring terms, allowing whole staff groups to attend on school closure days.
- Eleven new settings signed up for a two-day attachment aware trauma informed whole school development programme, with many others expressing interest but not confirming dates.

3.5 Staffing   *Table C3*

New staff induction started in September. An additional Enrichment Coordinator and two Education Advisers for CWSW joined the team for two years. Recruitment for an additional Post 16 Education Officer was again planned for the autumn term.

SCHOOL INFORMATION

4.1 Ofsted Grading 2022-23   *Table D1*

69% of Warwickshire CiC attended Good or Outstanding schools at the end of the year, in line with the national cohort. Due to changing inspection judgements, 8% of Warwickshire CiC were in Inadequate schools, 5% higher than for the national cohort.

Virtual School policy remains that when moving schools Good or Outstanding schools are always prioritised.

6

'Working in partnership, celebrating success, aiming for excellence'

4.2 Attendance and suspensions
Table D2,3,4,5

Overall attendance for 2022-23 was 86.7%. This was in line with 2021-22, but 3% lower than for the national cohort.

Attendance for the autumn term 2023 was 88.9%. Attendance was highest in Key Stage 2 (7–11-year-olds) and lowest in Key Stage 4 (14–16-year-olds). 123 CiC fell into the Persistent Absence category with under 90% attendance. 30 CiC fell into the Severe Absence category with under 50% attendance.

In 2022-23 79 CiC, 13% of the cohort, were suspended a total of 221 times from 54 provisions. One permanent exclusion was rescinded with Virtual School support.
In the autumn term 2023, 46 CiC, 9.2%, were suspended a total of 91 times from 38 provisions, including 9 which were specialist settings. Two permanent exclusions were rescinded with Virtual School support.

Supporting professionals to improve attendance and working with settings to reduce the use of suspensions remain priorities for the Virtual School.

4.3 Personal Education Plans (PEPs)
In the autumn term 99.1% of CiC had PEP review meetings which were successfully documented.
The Virtual School has very effective systems in place to ensure professionals are aware of their role in initiating, developing and reviewing PEPs each term. These systems ensure that **all** preschool, school age and Post 16 CiC have PEP reviews every term.

4.4 Pupil Premium Plus (PP+)
Table D8

For termly PEPs, schools select the funding allocation required for the planned interventions within that term. Schools can access up to £1500 per child per term. The average amount claimed per CiC in autumn 2023 was over £100 higher than that claimed in the summer term. This is a positive indicator, showing that bespoke support and intervention was facilitated at the start of the academic year.
The Virtual School closely monitors PP+ spend and impact, to advocate and facilitate bespoke support and intervention and promote the best outcomes.

One-to-one tuition was commissioned from a specialist tutoring company. Table D9 details the programme delivered and the numbers of CiC benefitting. In addition, several CiC, across the age ranges, benefitted from additional blocks of tuition, which are not detailed in the table. Funding will continue for one more year and the Virtual School has committed to offering the same successful programme as for 22-23.

CHILDREN PREVIOUSLY IN CARE
5.1 Revised duties
Promoting the education of children previously in care (CPIC) is a statutory function for Virtual Schools. Virtual Schools are required to do this by providing information and advice.

'Working in partnership, celebrating success, aiming for excellence'

Warwickshire Virtual School continues to be viewed as a beacon of very good practice for its service delivery. Close links are maintained with Adoption Central England and social workers of families who have children subject to Special Guardianship Orders. Referrals are made by professionals and those with parental responsibility contact the Virtual School directly. The Virtual School response is comprehensive and often goes above and beyond what is required to ensure the best outcomes for the children involved.

Routine training and monitoring for Warwickshire settings focusses on advocating for CPIC and Education Advisers ensure the needs and vulnerabilities of this cohort are understood and monitored within settings.

CHILDREN WITH A SOCIAL WORKER
6.1 Extended duties
Promoting the education of CWSW remains a non-statutory function for Virtual Schools. Warwickshire Virtual School is keen to provide the strategic oversight that this cohort of children needs. Any impact of the educational journey and achievements of this cohort could reduce the number of children entering care, and for those that do enter care, improve their outcomes as they may have better starting points.

Provisional data available to the Virtual School highlights a negative gap between both the achievement and the attendance of Warwickshire children compared to the national cohort.

Revised guidance was published in June 2022, with an update in December 2023 to include children in formal kinship arrangements. The Virtual School started developing its service response to this in January 2024, and will implement it in September 2024 in line with the guidance.

For the past three years, awareness of this cohort has been promoted via Virtual School led training and CPD opportunities. An interactive theatre-based conference has been particularly well received and has been delivered to whole cohorts and whole school staff, as well as individual representatives from schools and WCC officers.
RADY, Raising the Attainment of Disadvantaged Youngsters, is an easy-to-use intervention for all types of educational setting. The Virtual School ran one cohort of settings last year and is looking to identify a cohort for this year.

The West Midlands Children in Care Foundation offers access to Thinking Differently, a suite of professional development modules, which can be used alongside or independently to RADY.

The Virtual School Head supported the SEND and Inclusion workstream on EBSA (Emotional Based School Avoidance) and now the CWSW Education Advisers are part of the trial phase.

A few projects are set to improve outcomes and understanding of the CWSW cohort:
- A focus on improving attendance in the Rugby area with a local secondary school.
- Working with two children's teams to include attendance, SDQ and reading age on assessments.
- Access to the Outreach support in the Nuneaton and Bedworth areas. Schools will be able to access bespoke advice and support for CPIC, CWSW or children in

8

'Working in partnership, celebrating success, aiming for excellence'

formal kinship arrangements, alongside the Virtual School also advising support for CiC.

Deena Moorey
Virtual School Head and Service Manager

For questions or further information email: deenamoorey@warwickshire.gov.uk

Useful links:
https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/virtualschool https://www.wmvscicfoundation.org.uk

9

This page is intentionally left blank

Warwickshire Virtual School

Spring 2024 Report

Part 1, 2023-24

Appendices

All tables are referenced in the main report

Warwickshire County Council
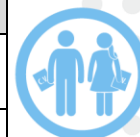
APPENDICES
*Tables with **BLUE** headings represent the statistical cohort*
*Tables with **ORANGE** headings represent the whole cohort, regardless of time in care*

APPENDIX A – Outcomes

Table A1 – Early Years Foundation Stage outcomes

GLD*	2021	2022	2023
Warwickshire CIC	-	21.1%	21.7%
National CIC	-	40%	41%
Difference	-	-18.9%	-19.3%
Each Warwickshire CiC represents	-	5.3%	4.3%

*Good Level of Development, the expected level of development at the end of the EYFS

Table A2 – Year One Phonics outcomes

WA*	2021	2022	2023
Warwickshire CIC	-	60%	44.4%
National CIC	-	60%	61%
Difference	-	In line	-16.6%
Each Warwickshire CiC represents	-	5%	5.5%

*Working at or above standard

Table A3 – Key Stage One outcomes

RWM*	2021	2022	2023
Warwickshire CIC	-	37.5%	26.1%
National CIC	-	30%	32%
Difference	-	+7.5%	-5.9%
Each Warwickshire CiC represents	-	6.3%	4.3%

*RWM = Reading, Writing and Maths at the expected standard

Table A4 – Key Stage Two outcomes

RWM	2021	2022	2023
Warwickshire CIC	-	28.6%	46.4%
National CIC	-	32%	36%
Difference	-	-3.4%	+9.6%
Each Warwickshire CiC represents	-		3.6%

Table A5 – Key Stage Four outcomes

The Basics*	2021	2022	2023
Warwickshire CIC	-	16.1%	0%
National CIC	-	14%	10%
Difference	-	+2.1%	-10%

2

Each Warwickshire CiC represents	-	1.6%	2.2%

*English and Maths GCSE at grade 5 or above

Table A6 – Attainment 8

Attainment 8	2021	2022	2023
Warwickshire CIC	-	23.0	14.7
National CIC	-	20.8	19.8
Difference	-	+2.2	-5.1

Table A7– Progress 8

Progress 8	2021	2022	2023
Warwickshire CIC	-	-1.03	-1.38
National CIC	-	-1.30	-1.24
Difference	-	+0.27	- 0.14

Table A8 – Quarter 3 2023-24 Post 16 Education, Employment, Training overview

destination	number	Percentage of cohort
College	108	50%
School	37	17.1%
Apprenticeship	5	2.3%
Training	8	3.7%
Employment	1	0.4%
Other	7	3.2%
Unknown	3	1.3%
NEET	47	21.7%

APPENDIX B – Cohort Information

Table B1 – Cohort numbers 2023-24

	Jan 23	Apr 23	Aug 23	Dec 23
Pre school	65	63	48	55
School age	461	484	510	471
Post 16	213	181	154	216
Total	739	728	712	742

Table B2 – Number of UAS, all ages Autumn 2023

	Sept 23	Oct 23	Nov 23	Dec 23
New UAS	7	9	5	8
TOTAL	153	119	120	125

Table B3 – Designation of schools attended by CiC Autumn 2023

Setting type	CiC	Percentage of cohort	% comparison to previous term
Mainstream	366	77.7%	higher
Special	45	9.5%	lower

Warwickshire
County Council

3

ISP	46	9.8%	higher
Other	14	3%	lower

Table B4 – CiC with SEND 2022-2023

	CiC
National CIC with SEND*	27.2%
Warwickshire CIC with SEND	24.1%
Difference	-3.1%
All Warwickshire*	13%

*LAIT March 2023

Table B5 – CiC with EHCPs Autumn 2023

	CiC
National CIC with EHCP*	30.2%
Warwickshire CIC with EHCP	30.3%
Difference	+0.1%
All Warwickshire*	4.1%

*LAIT July 2023

Table B6 – SEND overview by year group Autumn 2023

Year Group	CiC	SEND Without EHCP	EHCP	School type
Rec	**30**	1 3.3%	3 10%	29 mainstream (96.7%) 1 special (3.3)
Y1	**28**	4 14.3%	1 3.6%	28 mainstream (100%) 0 special
Y2	**21**	5 23.8%	1 4.8%	21 mainstream (100%) 0 special
Y3	**29**	7 24.1%	4 13.8%	27 mainstream (93.1%) 2 special (6.9%)
Y4	**25**	6 24%	2 8%	24 mainstream (96%) 1 special (4%)
Y5	**25**	3 12%	8 32%	21 mainstream (84%) 3 special (12%) 1 ISP (4%)
Y6	**33**	6 18.1%	10 30.3%	25 mainstream (75.8%) 4 special (12.1%) 4 ISP (12.1%)
Y7	**37**	5 13.5%	12 32.4%	29 mainstream (78.4%) 6 special (16.2%) 2 ISP (5.4%)
Y8	**47**	6 12.8%	19 40.4%	33 mainstream (70.2%) 9 special (19.1%) 4 ISP (8.5%) 1 other (2.1%)
Y9	**51**	9 17.6%	23 45.1%	32 mainstream (62.7%) 8 special (15.7%) 8 ISP (15.7%) 3 other (5.9%)

4

Y10	**56**	9 16.1%	19 33.9%	38 mainstream (67.9%) 4 special (7.1%) 12 ISP (21.4%) 2 other (3.6%)
Y11	**89**	15 16.9%	31 34.8%	60 mainstream (67.4%) 7 special (7.9%) 14 ISP (15.7%) 8 other (9%)
TOTAL	**471**	75 15.9%	130 27.6%	See table B3

APPENDIX C – Virtual School Information

Table C1 – Raising Aspirations Program

Explorers	• For Year 6 • Introduction to the university program • Hosted by Coventry University • Four days in the Spring term
UniGo!	• For Years 7, 8, 9 • Days hosted at Coventry University and the University of Warwick • Year 7 focuses on introducing the programme; Year 8 developing skills; Year 9 preparing for Further Education, Higher Education, routes into employment • Student mentors work with each CiC
UNIty	• For Years 10, 11, 12 • Includes a residential • Hosted by the University of Warwickshire • Longer sessions, whole day immersive activities • Focus on Higher Education events delivered by institutions

Table C2 – Enrichment

| Virtual School Awards	• Annual, generally September • Nominations from education settings, social workers, IROs etc • Certificates and medals presented to acknowledge achievements and promote positive self-image
Arts	• Delivered through the West Midlands Children in Care Foundation • Managed by Performing Perfectly • Working with Women in Theatre and the Arts Council
Sports	• Delivered through the West Midlands Children in care Foundation • Managed by Think Active

Warwickshire County Council

5
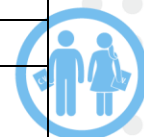
Table C3 – Virtual School Staffing Structure Sept 2023

Role	Post status	working weeks	hours per week	Salary scale/point	budget
VSH	permanent	52	37	Hay	core funding
Senior Education Adviser	permanent	52	37	Soulbury 10-14	core funding
Education Adviser, CIC	permanent	41	32	Soulbury 3-6	core funding
Education Adviser, CIC	permanent	41	37	Soulbury 3-6	Section 31
Education Adviser, CPiC	permanent	52	30	Soulbury 3-6	Section 31
Education Adviser, CWSW	fixed term	52	37	Soulbury 3-6	Section 31
Education Adviser, CWSW	fixed term	52	37	Soulbury 3-6	Section 31
Post 16 Education Officer	permanent	41	37	Scale G	core funding
Post 16 Education Officer - VACANCY	fixed term	41	37	Scale G	Section 31
Early Years Education Officer	fixed term	52	12	Scale G	Section 31
Enrichment Coordinator	permanent	41	30	Scale G	core funding
Enrichment Coordinator	fixed term	52	30	Scale G	Section 31
VS Officer	permanent	52	22.5	Scale F	core funding
VS Officer	permanent	52	30	Scale F	core funding

APPENDIX D – School Information

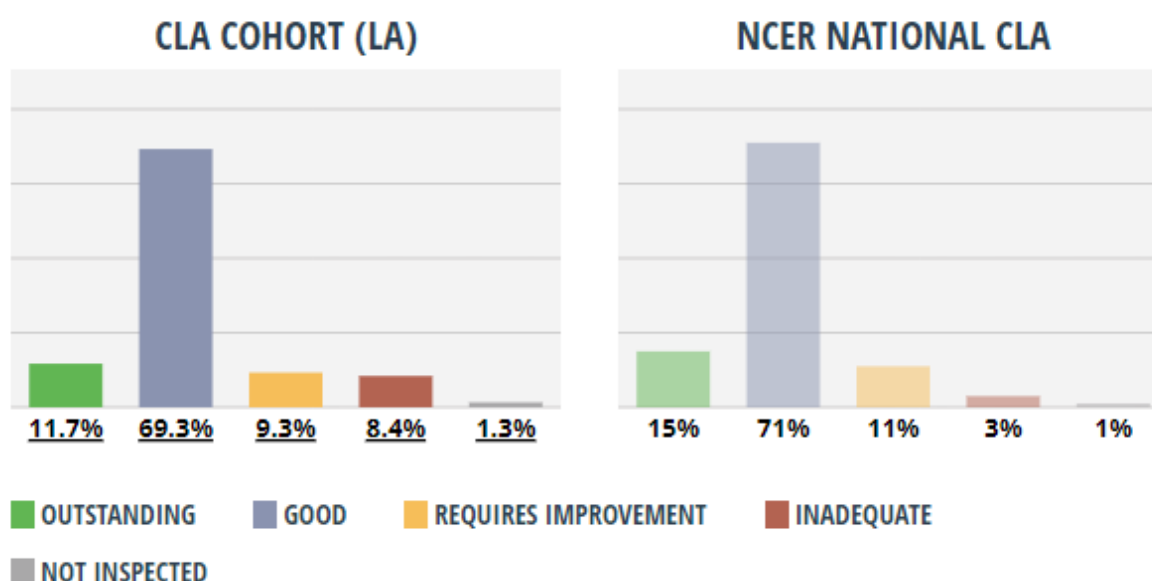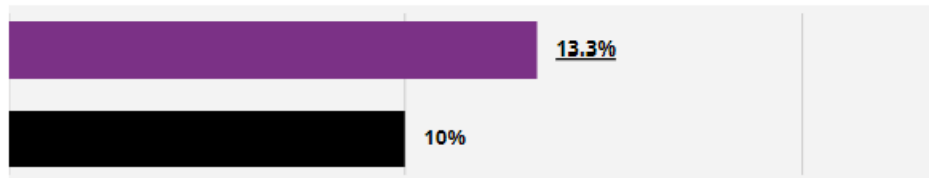Table D1 – Ofsted grading for schools attended 2022-23 (whole cohort)

Table D2 – Attendance 2022-23 (whole cohort)
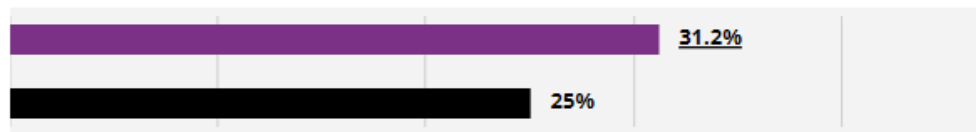Warwickshire – purple, National - black

OVERALL ABSENCE

	DIFFERENCE +3%

- Warwickshire: 13.3%
- National: 10%

PERSISTENT ABSENCE (10%)

	DIFFERENCE +6%

- Warwickshire: 31.2%
- National: 25%

SEVERE PERSISTENT ABSENCE (50%)

	DIFFERENCE +3%

- Warwickshire: 9.3%
- National: 6%
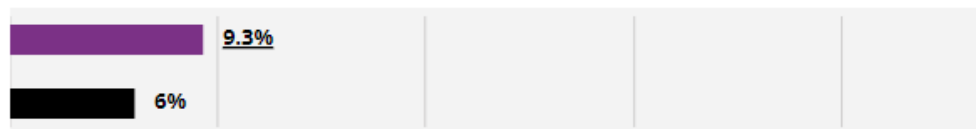
Table D3 – Attendance by year group 2022-23

Year Group

Year Group	Attendance	Key Stage
0	93.3%	EYFS
1	92.5%	KS1
2	95.3%	KS1
3	97.2%	KS2
4	95.1%	KS2
5	94.9%	KS2
6	97.1%	KS2
7	92.3%	KS3
8	91.2%	KS3
9	87.5%	KS3
10	77.2%	KS4
11	73.6%	KS4

Legend: KS4, KS3, KS2, KS1, EYFS

Warwickshire County Council
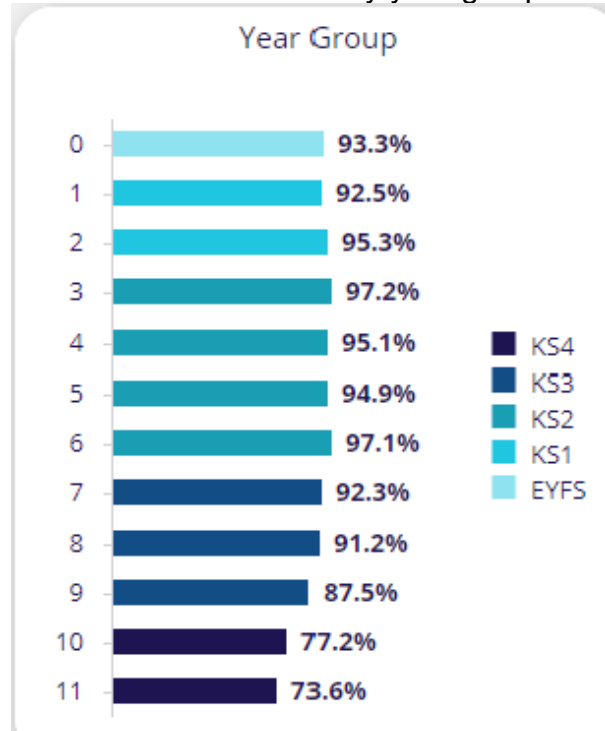
7

Table D4 – Attendance by year group for autumn 23
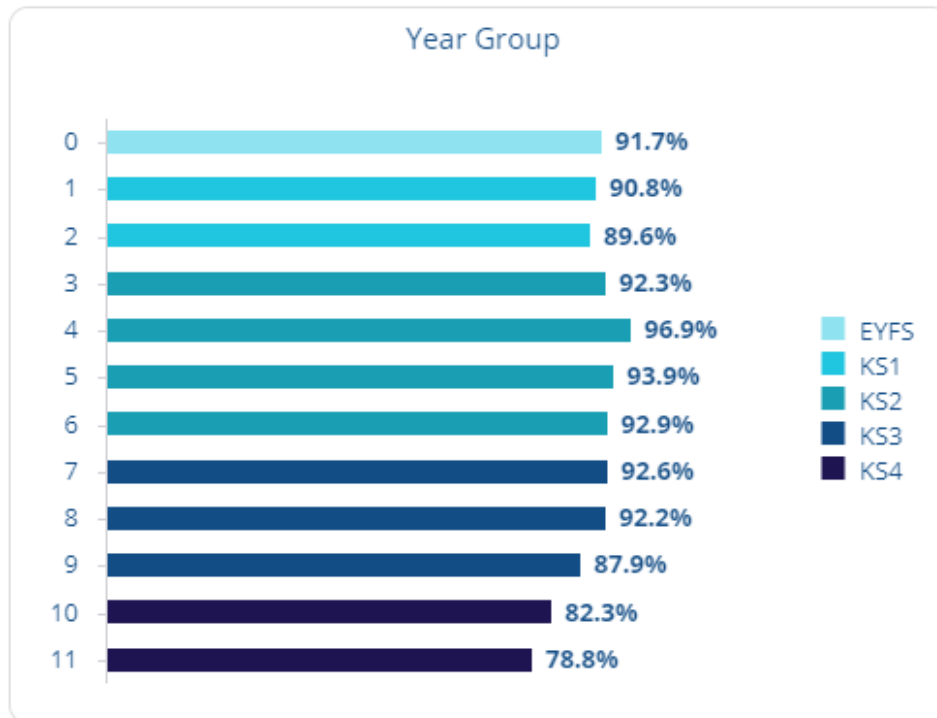
Table D5– Annual Suspensions*

	Warwickshire CIC	National CIC	Difference
2017	15.00	11.45	+3.55
2018	10.36	11.27	-0.9
2019	8.52	11.35	-2.83
2020	9.43	9.38	+0.05
2021	12.6	9.8	+2.8

*Information from the LAIT

Table D6 – CIC spending time not on a school roll Autumn 2023

	Sept 23	Oct 23	Nov 23	Dec 23
Newly off roll	4	7	4	4
Put on roll	5	5	6	3
Total off roll*	13	13	11	13

*totals vary due to children entering and leaving care

Table D7 – in-year school moves by key stage Autumn 2023

	EYFS	KS1	KS2	KS3	KS4	Totals
2020-21	10	10	18	26	19	83
2021-22	4	14	26	22	10	76
2022-23	7	22	16	18	13	76
Aut 22	3	13	8	9	6	39
Spr 23	2	6	6	7	4	25
Sum 23	2	3	2	2		12
Aut 23	0	4	10	8	16	38

8

Table D8 – PP+

	Payments to schools via PEPs	Average PEP related spend per CIC
Aut 21	£282,400	£619.30
Spr 22	£295,000	£699.05
Sum 22	£244,900	£540.62
Aut 22	£270,500	£654.96
Spr 23	£314,500	£748.81
Sum 23	£287, 400	£630.26
Aut 23	£318,600	£746.14

Table D9 – National Tutoring Programme

	Eligible cohort	Uptake
Aut 22	Y5, Y6, Y10, Y11	79 CiC
Spr 23	Y1, Y2, Y7, Y8	44 CiC
Sum 23	Y3, Y4, Y9	29 CiC
Aut 23	Y5, Y6, Y10, Y11	45 CiC

For questions or further information email: deenamoorey@warwickshire.gov.uk

Warwickshire County Council

9

This page is intentionally left blank

Corporate Parenting Panel
Work Programme 2024

Agenda Item 5

Item	Report detail	Date of Meeting
Update from CICC and Care Leaver Forum and Change Team	Children in Care Council/Care Leaver's Forum, & Voice, Influence and Change Team Update	* Standing items for every meeting
Performance Data	Report which includes key data regarding CLA & Care Leavers	
Development of Work Programme for 2023 and Forward Plan information	To consider proposed work programme & future areas of work for the panel; including information from the forward plan with items relevant to the remit of the panel	
Report from the Virtual School Head	**Spring Term** (March/April) - focus on validated achievement outcomes **Summer Term** (July/August) - focus on other work of the Virtual School such as enrichment opportunities, as this supports the raising achievement agenda. **Autumn term** (November) - focus on provisional achievement outcomes	**Quarterly Report – next report due 1st July 2024**

Report detail	Date of Meeting
• ~~Sibling Strategy~~ • ~~Care Leavers Offer and Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children Offer~~	25th March 2024
• Work Force Strategy • Care Leavers Offer and Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children Offer (*moved from March 2024*)	1st July 2024
• Missing Episodes	30th September 2024
• Fostering and Alternative Carers Support Team Annual Report • Adoption Annual Report	18th November 2024
	20th January 2025
	24th March 2025

Actions from the previous meetings/additions to the work programme

- County Line – a police representative will be asked to attend.
- Sibling Strategy – to be rescheduled – postponed from 25th March meeting.

Briefing notes requested

- Further information in relation to siblings in care - a more detailed breakdown was requested following the report presented at the meeting.
- Further information in relation to missing episodes – the panel would like to see how many episodes relate, for example, to being 10 minutes late and how many are when a child is missing for several days. (Due in January 2024)

Information circulated to Members outside of meetings - *none currently.*

Items included on the Forward Plan relevant to the remit of the Panel:

The remit of the panel is to secure elected member and cross-organisation support and commitment for delivering improvement services and better outcomes for looked after children, young people and care leavers:

Decision	Description	Date due	Decision Maker
SEND and Inclusion	Review of the revised core offer following public consultation	11 April 2024	Cabinet
Educational Attainment Working Group Report	A report on the findings of, and recommendations made by, the working group established to aid attainment of children's education in Warwickshire	9 May 2024	Cabinet
Establishment of Specialist Resourced Provision	Establishment of specialist resourced provisions at primary/secondary schools in Warwickshire		
West Midlands Regional Foster Care Framework	Regional commissioning activity to join the new West Midlands Foster Care Framework to be mobilised 1st October 2024	13 June 2024	Cabinet

Upcoming Member Development Sessions

Please contact Helen Barnsley (Senior Democratic Services Officer) if you would like more information or if you are missing a calendar invitation. All development sessions will be held via Microsoft Teams unless otherwise stated.

Session	Date and Time
The Care Collaborative	Wednesday 27th March at 2pm
SEND Awareness Further information on the content of the training will be circulated nearer the meetings. Members are expected to attend one of the sessions.	Tuesday 28th May at 10am - 1pm
	Thursday 30th May at tbc
	Wednesday 5th June at 10am - 1pm

Future Meetings – 2024

- 1st July 2024 at 10am
- 30th September 2024 at 10am
- 18th November 2024 at 10am

   2025
- 20th January 2025 at 10am
- 24th March 2025 at 10am